



## ACCOUNTABILITY BRIEF

December, 2000

### Indicators of Student Discipline Legislation Impact on Nevada Public Schools

The 1999 session of the Nevada State Legislature continued focus on public education, revising previous legislation and proposing new legislation. Various areas of concern involving student discipline were addressed, especially habitual discipline problems, disruptive students, and habitual truancy. The present brief provides data collected from survey of public school districts and charter schools regarding the application of state laws on these three disciplinary areas in the 1999-2000 school year. State data is reported here and data for individual public schools is provided in a separate report available on request.

Assembly Bill 521 provides for the temporary removal of a disruptive student from a classroom if, in the judgement of the teacher, the student has engaged in behavior that seriously interferes with the ability of the other students to learn. The student receives educational services in a temporary alternative setting separated from other students. During the 1999-2000 school year, 355 elementary students and 741 secondary students were removed from classrooms one or more times by teachers.

Assembly Bill 14 provides for the suspension or expulsion from school of students determined to be habitual discipline problems for a period equal to at least one semester. The primary circumstances involved in the designation are threatening/extorting students or staff, initiating at least two fights, or five suspensions for any reason. Twenty-five public elementary students and 129 secondary students were designated as habitual discipline problems during the 1999-2000 school year.

Assembly Bill 15 requires school principals to report habitual truant students to either school police/law enforcement agencies for citation or to an attendance advisory board for placement in attendance programs/services or referral to law enforcement agencies. A student who has been declared a truant three or more times within one school year is a habitual truant. Two hundred fifteen elementary students and 2,177 secondary students were referred to law enforcement. The number of times elementary students were referred to law enforcement was 270, and the number of times for secondary student referrals to law enforcement was 2877. Thirty-six elementary students and 341 secondary students were referred to attendance advisory boards, with the number of advisory board referrals for elementary schools and secondary schools at 47 and 427, respectively. The attendance advisory board referral numbers are lowered since no referrals were made in Clark County, the state's largest district.

For further information or to receive a copy of the full report with data for individual schools, contact:

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